

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Special Viewing of Local Bishop, Pastor and Recording Artist

*Bishop James Norvell Flowers, Jr. will Lay in Repose
at the Seat Pleasant City Hall Parking Lot for Mourners to View*

Seat Pleasant, MD, Friday, April 10, 2020 –Seat Pleasant: A Smart City of Excellence will host a memorial ceremony for Bishop James Norvell Flowers Jr. on Monday, April 13, 2020, from 8:15 am to 10:15 am and will be livestreamed on the City's website. Due to the negative impact of the COVID 19 pandemic and social distancing guidelines restricting crowds of more than 10, the City has found a unique way to honor the life and legacy of one of the region's leading ministers. The body of Bishop Flowers will lie in repose in the parking lot of city hall where mourners will be permitted to drive through to pay their respects.

The special memorial viewing of Bishop Flowers is intended to protect public health, safety, and welfare while at the same time honoring and paying tribute to a special man of God who served his Lord and the community.

1. Mourners and well-wishers may leave their homes to travel by vehicle to and from the Special Memorial and must remain in their vehicle at all times.
2. All vehicle windows must remain closed.
3. Everyone must wear masks.
4. No vehicle may contain more than 10 persons, in accordance with paragraph III of the Governor's Executive Order.
5. Participants may not interact physically with clergy, family members, staff, or participants in other vehicles.
6. A special box will be provided for condolence messages and cards.
7. Vehicles cannot stop to take pictures.
8. Drivers are encouraged to turn on their headlights.

Bishop Flowers exemplified public service in his role as Pastor of Shining Star Freewill Baptist Church and was the recipient of the 2015 Seat Pleasant Medal of Service Award, the highest honor the City bestows on a resident. He was born in Longwood, North Carolina to the late James Norvell Flowers, Sr. and Lizzie Flowers. He was licensed to preach in 1978 and ordained in 1980. In 1982, he founded the Shining Star Freewill Baptist Church. In 2014, he was ordained as a Bishop. He tirelessly served his congregation for 38 devoted years.

Under the leadership of Bishop Flowers, the Families Against Drugs (F.A.D.) Center was founded which was recognized as one of the top ten drug prevention programs in the country. He annually organized Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners that fed over 1,000 persons in need and provided space on the Church grounds for the Annual Homeless Awareness Campout. A man of many talents, Bishop Flowers shared his

gift of music by singing at city functions and charity events as well as writing and recording nine CDs of gospel songs. His legacy continues on WYCB radio, where his music is still played to this day.

To instill a sense of community, Bishop Flowers housed a barbershop, a clothing pantry and classroom spaces on Shining Star Freewill Baptist Church property. He also served as one of the directors of the Prince George's County Christmas in April program for vulnerable families; and in recognition of his community service received numerous humanitarian awards. His motto was *live so God can use you*.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Bishop Flowers was a dedicated family man. Bishop Flowers was the loving husband of 58 years to the late Margaret L. Flowers, who preceded him in death in April 2019. He is survived by his four children, Randy (Vivian) Flowers, Elder Yolanda Flowers, Ronnie Flowers (Jerilyn), and Linda Flowers, as well as his 11 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and his two sisters, Erma Flowers and Mildred Scruggs. He was educated at Liberty Bible College and Prince George's Community College and went to achieve certification as an adult and teen parenting instructor.

Bishop Flowers passed peacefully on Monday, April 6, 2020 at the age of 84 years old. "Bishop Flowers was an honorable man and one whom I regarded as a friend. I send my deepest condolences to his loving family and congregation. Our City will continue to honor the life of Bishop Flowers by continuing his work in community service and lifting up the most vulnerable," said Mayor Eugene W. Grant.

"Our city will miss Bishop Flowers and his dedicated service to the community. We pray for God's blessings upon his family and his church family," said City Council President Reveral Yeargin of Seat Pleasant, Maryland.

Due to Governor Hogan's Executive Order restricting gatherings of more than 10 people, there will not be a formal service however, his body will lay in repose in the parking lot of City Hall to allow viewers to drive through to observe and pay their respects. All visitors should stay in their cars, keeping all car windows closed, wear masks and refrain from pictures to allow time for as many as possible to pay their respects. At 10:30 am, the Seat Pleasant Police Department, will lead a procession to the Shining Star Freewill Baptist Church, 5737 Martin Luther King, Jr. Highway, Seat Pleasant, MD 20743 and remain in front of the church for one (1) minute. From there they will proceed to Harmony Cemetery, 7101 Sherriff Rd., Hyattsville, MD 20785 and serve as pallbearers. This memorial will also be live-streamed on the Seat Pleasant website, www.seatpleasantmd.gov and all city social media pages to allow those unable to drive through to pay their respects.

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BECAUSE OF TIME CONSTRAINTS THIS EVENT WILL BEGIN ON TIME.

For more information on the event or to request an invitation to attend, please contact Rachel Kubi at rachel.kubi@seatpleasantmd.gov or 240-468-3912.

About The City of Seat Pleasant, MD

Founded in 1931, the city of Seat Pleasant is a small bedroom community west of Washington, DC in Prince George's County, Maryland. Its government is balanced with a Mayor and Seven Councilmembers. Seat Pleasant: A Smart City of Excellence is committed to finding ways to deliver services effectively and efficiently and provide meaningful and innovative methods to engage our citizenry. The City of Seat Pleasant is the first Smart City in the state of Maryland offering Smart City services that are better, faster, and personalized making it a "City for Me" using information and communication technology, with the internet of things.

For more information on the City of Seat Pleasant, visit us online at www.seatpleasantmd.gov or www.smallsmartcity.org, Twitter [@seatpleasant1](https://twitter.com/seatpleasant1) or Facebook at www.facebook.com/cityofseatpleasant.

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